

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS



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WILD DUCKS ON POTOMAC AFFECTED BY DISEASE

During the past several days a considerable number of dead wild ducks have been found on the Potomac River by officials of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and also by individuals. These birds on being examined by pathologists of the department showed a severe inflammation of the intestinal tract caused by intestinal parasites. The Biological Survey, in announcing the result of the findings of the department, states that it is very improbable that birds in flight are clinically affected by the parasites. The Survey points out, however, that the disease among the birds was discovered in this section only a few days ago and that investigations thus far are entirely in a preliminary stage. The specialists of the department are of the opinion that persons eating birds killed on the wing are very unlikely to suffer ill results, but advise that if any birds are killed on the water they be discarded if an abnormal reddening of the intestinal tract is evident.

The announcement is particularly important inasmuch as the hunting season on the Potomac River opens to-day (November 1).

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